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1 WHEREAS, hand-washing has been shown to reduce hospital-
2 acquired infections significantly, but hand-washing compliance
3 rates are generally less than fifty percent nationwide; and

4 WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospital
5 infection rates provide a strong incentive for hospitals to
6 improve those rates; and

7 WHEREAS, the study and public disclosure of hospital-
8 acquired infection rates will facilitate the provision of
9 information that the public needs to choose hospitals that
10 achieve low infection rates and avoid those hospitals that do
11 not achieve low infection rates; and

12 WHEREAS, studies of comprehensive hospital programs
13 designed to address all types of hospital-acquired infections
14 have realized reductions in hospital-acquired infections of
15 more than fifty percent; and

16 WHEREAS, four states, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and
17 Pennsylvania, require public disclosure of hospital-acquired
18 infection rates; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico has an opportunity to be at the
20 forefront of reform with respect to this issue;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
23 to conduct a comprehensive study of hospital-acquired infection
24 rates in New Mexico and present a written report of those
25 infection rates that includes methods of prevention of

1 hospital-acquired infections to the appropriate interim
2 committee of the legislature by December 31, 2005; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duplicate copies of the
4 department of health's report be filed with the legislative
5 council service library upon presentation of the report to the
6 appropriate interim committee of the legislature; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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